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Comment on USPS Ten-Year Plan

Dear members of the Commission:

I am writing to submit comments on the United States' Postal Service's "Delivering for America: Our Vision and Ten-Year Plan to Achieve Financial Sustainability and Service Excellence." Certain reforms are clearly needed in the current Postal Service in order to promote better service and enable it to meet its financial goals. One such badly-needed reform is to terminate the current overly-onerous requirement to pre-fund its retiree health plan costs.

However, much of what is included in the new Ten-Year Plan would **lower** the level of service the Post Office can provide. News sources report (and review of the Plan itself supports these reports) that implementation of this Plan would involve (a) shifting carriage of First-Class mail from air transportation to surface transportation; (b) slowing down delivery times; (c) closing a number of Post Offices, thus reducing access for many citizens to services; (d) shifting some services from the Postal Service to private providers; and (e) eliminating some services altogether.

For centuries the Post Office has been the trusted organization, mandated by the Constitution, for delivering mail and packages to American citizens. The reduction and degrading of services envisioned in the Ten-Year Plan would undermine this legacy and mis-serve the millions of citizens who rely on the Post Office for crucial services, such as timely delivery of medications and other important purchases to house-bound individuals, timely delivery of parts and livestock to small businesses, delivery of election ballots, and timely delivery of Social Security payments and other financial instruments.

Postmaster General DeJoy took measures during 2020 that slowed down mail delivery, apparently to serve a political end. This history erodes any faith that citizens might have that his proposed Plan has been created with the welfare of citizens and the Postal Service itself as the main goal. Moreover, General DeJoy's business history as the CEO, board member, and/or large shareholder of companies specializing in transport and either competing with the Post Office or holding contracts with it creates the concern that any shifting of Postal Services from the U.S. Post Office to private carriers could benefit DeJoy's private interests. The Ten-Year Plan may involve General DeJoy in a major conflict of interest, creating the perception and probably the reality that his personal interests conflict with the best

interests of the Postal Service and the citizens who depend on it. As citizens we cannot have faith that the Plan, however glowing its description of the impact it would have on the Postal Service, would genuinely improve service.

Accordingly, I cannot support adoption of the Ten-Year Plan, and request that you reject it.

Sincerely,

Holly M. Smith